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REPLY

TO THE

LETTER,

LATELY ADDRESSED TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE

The Earl of Selkirk,

BY

THE HON. AND REV. JOHN STRACHAN, D.D.

RECTOR OF YORKE, IN UPPER CANADA;

BEING FOUR LETTERS,

(RE-PRINTED FROM THE MONTREAL HERALD,)

CONTAINING

A STATEMENT OF FACTS,

CONCERNING THE SETTLEMENT ON RED-RIVER,
IN THE DISTRICT OF OSSINIBOIA, TERRITORY
OF THE HONBLE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY,
PROPERLY CALLED RUPERT'S LAND.

BY

ARCHIBALD MACDONALD,

D

"FACTS ARE CHILLS THAT WINNA DING."

[Burns.]

MONTREAL (LOWER-CANADA) : PRINTED BY W. GRAY

JUNE, 1816.

*To the Honorable and Reverend JOHN STRACHAN, D. D.
Member of the Executive Council, and Rector of York, in
Upper Canada.*

HONBLE. AND REVD. SIR,

THE Pamphlet which you lately published in the shape of a Letter, addressed to the Right Honorable the Earl of SELKIRK, on the subject of the Colony at Red River, came into my hands just as I was preparing to leave England for this Country, so that I had barely time enough to point out to some of my friends, the malicious falsehood of those accusations against me, of which you have condescended to be the public retailer. After the liberties you have taken in the Postscript, in what you say of the Agents and Officers of the Colony, you cannot be surprized, that I should be desirous of clearing my own reputation, and those of my friends, of the stain you have attempted to fix upon them. In doing so, I shall confine myself in matters of fact, chiefly to what fell under my own observation, and in reasoning merely to correct the erroneous conclusions you have drawn from circumstances, either wholly without foundation, or grossly misrepresented. Except in what is entirely consistent with my own knowledge, I shall not make any attempt to defend the reputation of the Earl of Selkirk; the exposure of the malevolent and contemptible aspersions by which you endeavor to vilify his character, being, of course, dependent on proceedings before courts of justice, and therefore not to come for some time completely before the public. Neither shall I enter the lists with you upon the great national questions, concerning the policy or impolicy of colonizing this or that portion of the British dominions, being fully persuaded, that neither your lucubrations nor mine, however much we might value them ourselves, are likely to have much effect in determining those important matters.

To you, who, on the present occasion, and on purpose to make your uncourteous attack, have voluntarily stepped out of the pulpit, and thrown aside the restraints which a regard for the decency becoming your office as a Clergyman, might have imposed, the freedom with which I reply requires no apology; and if one be due to the public, the example which you have set, affords a much better than any that I could offer.

Before proceeding to particulars, it may not be amiss to consider what we might expect to be the nature of statements concerning the colony, of such origin as those which you have made public. The ground work of them was furnished by persons considerably in debt, and who, having resolved to quit the Colony, on purpose to defraud their creditors, had been base and cowardly enough, not only to abandon their friends and countrymen, but, after taking an active part in robbing them of the artillery and muskets that had been provided for their defence, had left them, (as they and the North West Company flattered themselves), to fall a prey to the savage ferocity of their bastard Half-breeds. They, of course, must have had every disposition to make it appear, that the steps they had taken were justifiable, either on account of the injustice with which they had been treated, or on the score of necessity, and would therefore be glad to meet with any person, especially a man of your consequence, who was willing to lend an ear to any complaints, however unfounded, which they had to make against the officers of the Colony. This was nothing but natural with men in their situation, and therefore any unbiassed person would have been disposed to listen to what they had to say, with some grains of allowance, and would have waited to hear both sides of the question, before forming his own opinion; but you could not be expected to adopt so reasonable a course, of proceeding.—In the first paragraph of the advertisement prefixed to your pamphlet, you candidly acknowledge, that from the moment you heard of the commencement of a settlement at Red River, you first decreed that it was a deception, and then determined to obtain the necessary information. This you had done, even before you had seen Lord Selkirk's Prospectus, and after waiting four years

years without obtaining any information that suited your long meditated purpose, you had just finished your calumniatory letter, when the N. W. Company at length brought before you a considerable number of the settlers. As you had condescended, in your Letter, to represent to Lord Selkirk, at some length, what he had reason to be better acquainted with than you—that is, the difficulties attendant on all new settlements, and as you had not been able to procure any appropriate information in time to be embodied in your Letter, you were glad to seize the opportunity thus furnished, of producing in the Postscript, something like a practical proof of the prophetic sagacity and ability with which you had foretold the disasters of the Colony.

You cannot be supposed, however, to have been very anxious to ascertain the truth of the statements which you produced from the settlers, trusting, that if they were true, they could not be disproved, and if false, that it was not you, but the settlers, who would be responsible. You were only solicitous to bring into public view, what, appeared, to use your own words, “strongly corroborative” of what you had written, and it would not, therefore, have been consistent with your plan to take any notice of the fact, that a number of the settlers whom you saw, notwithstanding the hardships and difficulties which they had encountered in their passage by sea and land; notwithstanding the numerous impositions which had been practised upon them, and notwithstanding the mal-treatment which, according to your statement, they had experienced, both before and after their arrival at the Red River, had nevertheless been so well satisfied with their situation in the Colony, as to write letters to their nearest and dearest relations in Scotland, advising them to come and share their good fortune. Neither would it have suited your purpose to have paid any attention to what, nevertheless, your denial cannot disprove, that the fertility of the soil at the Colony, surpassed any that they had ever seen; and that, for the purpose of cultivating grain or potatoes, the land being ready cleared, they had only to plough the ground and put in the seed. Nor could you be expected to have stated, that of the men whom you saw, some, who had originally come out as indentured servants, had,

had, on the expiration of their contracts, declined taking a passage to Scotland, preferring to give a practical proof of their opinions of the land, and of the treatment they had received, by taking farms, and becoming independent settlers.

Although you did not think it necessary to your purpose to publish such facts as these, you cannot deny that they were, or at least easily might have been known to you at the time you wrote your Postscript; and I believe it will appear in the sequel, that they had then made a slight, though unacknowledged impression even upon your mind.

The hardships on which the settlers found their complaints, may be conveniently considered under the following heads, as they relate to—1. *Contracts* with Lord Selkirk.—2. *The Voyage* from Scotland to Churchill.—3. *Their Provisions*—4. *The Work* imposed upon them.—5. *The Prices* of articles furnished out of the stores.—6. *Their Luggage*.—7. *The Treatment* they experienced personally.

1. *Contracts*.—Under this head it will be proper to explain, that Lord Selkirk's intercourse with the emigrants from Sutherlandshire, with whom I went out, originated in London, where a deputation of them had arrived to lay the complaints they had to make, on being deprived of the lands which had been so long occupied by their forefathers, before the family of the proprietor, and when they failed in that application, before Government. They had received no encouragement from either, and were about to return to their own districts without any prospect of being able to ameliorate their condition when a friend of their principal deputy advised him to apply to Lord Selkirk, who communicated to him the same terms he had given to the settlers who had gone before them to Red River. The Deputies were delighted with these proposals; and returned to their friends with the glad tidings. On receiving his proposals in Sutherlandshire, the people that were desirous of emigrating, hastened to address themselves to his Lordship's Agent, with solicitations to be taken out, and on his representation of their anxiety, Lord Selkirk was induced to go personally to Sutherlandshire, being impressed with the absolute necessity,

ty, to ensure their arrival at York Factory in due season, that they should set out on their voyage without delay; and well knowing that his own experience in such equipments would facilitate their departure infinitely better than could be done by any agent whatever.

As to your statement about the terms imposed upon the emigrants, both with respect to the passage money, and the price of the lands, I know that his Lordship has fixed these, not as you say, with the miserable view of robbing them of the poor pittance which constituted their all, but upon the principle, that it is only by making men pay a reasonable price for what they get, that they can justly be expected to remain true to their engagements, or become anxious to improve their lands. Although it must be evident to the whole world, that the sum total of the property of these poor people could be no object, to tempt a person of his Lordship's rank and fortune, to commit so infamous an act, as that of which you have the impudence to accuse him, it may not be amiss to notice here, some of the arguments upon which you seem to lay such stress in reprobating this part of his Lordship's conduct.—If the principle on which he acted in this instance were wrong in theory, His Lordship's former experience had taught him, that it was practically right, for he had always found that the most troublesome, the most discontented, the most unmanageable, and the most ungrateful, of all the settlers he had ever had to deal with, were those whom he had treated with the most liberality, and most nearly on the footing of mere charity. As settlers, those who pay for what they receive, feel the value of their independence, and of what they have bought; while those to whom you give every thing, are ready at all times to abandon what has cost them nothing, and to go any where else in quest of adventures, just as those men had done, whom you examined, in quitting the colony, and going to Upper Canada.

Among them, one R. Gann, was almost the only person to whom Lord Selkirk had given a free passage to the Colony, and yet he was the very first that was induced to abandon

don and take up arms against it, having actually joined the North West Company's forces, two months before any other settler; and of all those who followed his example, and ultimately came to Canada, only one person had deposited any considerable sum of money, at the time of embarkation, in the hands of Lord Selkirk; and it cannot be doubted, that, before he was induced to act the part he did, he must have received something more substantial than promises of land in Upper Canada.

The practice lately adopted by Government in this province, which you so justly praise, and of which every man of sense must approve; I mean, that of not granting lands to persons who have neither the ties of self interest, nor the honor of Englishmen, to offer as security for their attachment and fidelity to the Government, is a further proof of the soundness of the principle which you reprobate, and of the impolicy of attempting to blind human nature merely by the ties of gratitude, imposed by unbounded and misplaced liberality.

You have said, that the charge of ten guineas for the passage of each individual from England to the settlement is enormous; I leave the public to judge whether it be so or not. In a note at page 27 you say, that his Lordship had stated the passage money at ten pounds for each family, but that ten guineas had been charged for each individual. In this assertion you have either misconstrued, for the sake of argument, or strangely misconceived what his Lordship has very plainly stated, as may be seen by referring to the Prospectus, as printed at pages 72 and 73 of your pamphlet, viz. that "The Settlement being at some distance from the sea, an extra expence must be incurred for the inland conveyance, which the emigrants could not be expected to pay, but which must fall upon the proprietor." This extra expence, his Lordship estimates at ten pounds for each family; but how you could have imagined that ten pounds could be the average at which families might be conveyed from Scotland to Hudson's Bay, it remains for you to explain.

You dwell with exultation on the vast difference which you

You say there is between the lands in Canada and those at the Red River settlement, first, on account of their situation, and next on account of their qualities. With respect to the former, I can only tell you, that the ice on the Red River usually breaks up from the 10th to the 15th of April; that in the navigation from Hudson's Bay to the Settlement, there is no necessity whatever for canoes in any part of it, and that when I went up with the settlers, we employed boats of about 35 feet keel, and calculated to carry from three to four tons burden. You have stated, that the rivers and lakes on this route are not clear of ice and safe for navigation till the middle of June, and that a boat or canoe cannot leave York Factory for the Red River later than the 6th of September. In reply to this statement, I have only to say, that in the year 1814, not remarked as unusually favorable, I started with the boats above mentioned from York Factory on the 23d May, and without encountering any danger whatever, arrived with these inexperienced men at the settlement on the 22d June, including some delays on the road. On the other hand, a boat of the same description from York Factory, arrived at the settlement on the 12th November, so that for that season, these lakes and rivers were actually navigated 174 days, considerably more than double the time that your report allows it to be practicable.

After the statement of this simple fact, the public may judge what reliance they ought to place on any information, from a person who has been taught to assert, that, "the settler can only depend on 89 days in the year for transacting the commercial business of the colony by Hudson's Bay."

With respect to the price of the land, you say, that to charge £50 for every 100 acres, in a place so remote, is to pillage the unfortunate emigrant; because if he had found his way to Canada, he would have received 200 acres for nothing, or at most for the price of survey; and that farms are often sold in Upper Canada for two dollars an acre; that is, from 10 to 30 acres clear, with a small log house; and you reckon the average price of land in Upper Canada, with all its advantages, at 5s. an acre. The price of land depends a good deal on its quality, and on the labor necessary

to render it productive, as well as on its situation. Instead of taking the evidence of the living witnesses before you, to ascertain the quality of the lands at the Red River Settlement, you prefer the indirect method of referring to Sir Alexander MacKenzie, whom no body could expect to hold out encouragement for colonizing these plains. Even he, however, has described them as the finest country in the world, for the habitation of uncivilized man, abounding in fish, fowl, venison, and buffalo; but he left it to the wisdom of Dr. Strachan, to make the extraordinary assertion, (no person will allow that it is entitled to be called a conclusion) that the very circumstances which qualified it so well for the habitation of savages, rendered it wholly unfit for the domicile of civilized beings. Your prejudices had led you to make this assertion, without being guided by prudence; but perhaps the following facts may serve to rectify your erroneous opinions on this point.

Under all the disadvantages of climate and situation, which you so greatly magnify, our lands yielded us returns amounting to 52 for 1 in wheat, 48 in barley, 46 to 60 in potatoes, (some of the seed in very bad condition) and in oats, pease, and other kinds of grain, our returns were beyond any that I ever heard of in any part of Scotland. Had the crops not been trampled down by the men and horses employed as cavalry by the North West Company, our returns last season would have been such, as to render us independent of all supplies of those articles from any other quarter. You will not find it less difficult to give credence to these facts, supported as they are by numerous witnesses, than you must have felt surprised when you were informed that the colony, of which your Postscript so triumphantly announced the destruction, had in reality, at the time you were despatching your Epistle, risen from its ashes, being so far re-established, that although the houses had been burnt to the ground, and as much done as our enemies thought necessary to destroy the standing crops; yet, that by the end of September, the settlers, with the assistance of the native Indians (whose imagined hostility you take such pains to describe) had secured and housed in 1500 bushels of wheat, besides other grain and potatoes, in such abundance, that with
the

the continued aid of the Indians, they had every prospect of possessing plenty of provisions for 100 families for 12 months.

So much for the nature of the climate and soil, which you declare unfit for civil society ; but the principal advantage to a new settler, which the lands on Red River possess, seems wholly to have escaped your notice. I allude to the facility of cultivation. All that is there necessary, as I have already said, is to plough and put in the seed ; and I refer it to any impartial person, who is acquainted with the impediments for cultivation, presented by heavy woods, to judge whether 5s. which, according to your statement, is the difference between the average price of land in Upper Canada, and at the Red River Settlement, is not a very moderate compensation for the farmer to pay for so important an advantage, while he is still sufficiently within the reach of plenty of wood for every useful purpose. One instance may be mentioned as a proof of the extreme facility with which an industrious man might cultivate these lands.

John Bruce, a man upwards of 70 years of age, began last spring, as soon as the weather permitted, to open his lands for the first time, and having no family, without any assistance whatever, had sowed by the 15th June, one bushel of wheat, and half a bushel of barley, and had planted 6 bushels of potatoes, besides having a stock of pease, beans, cabbages, and other vegetables in his garden ; so that if he had been permitted to reap the fruits of his industry in peace, he would have had a sufficiency, at the average rate of returns, to have supplied the wants even of a family.

After this refutation of what you have advanced concerning the quality of the land, and of the climate, it may not be amiss to notice, what you admit in the Postscript, that " if the Colony really possess the advantages set forth in the Prospectus, the disaster that has happened will be transitory ;" from which a pedagogue might fairly conclude, that as the disaster alluded to has indeed been very transitory, the colony must possess the advantages, &c. &c. The apparent candor of this admission on your part, seems, at

least, to imply, as I have hinted before, that you did not repose so much confidence in the assertions you had made, and the conclusions you had drawn, as you wished them to receive from the public, remarkable as they are for not being supported, in as far as they regard the nature of the soil and climate, at the Colony, by a single word, in the tales you have collected from the settlers.

But that we may not weary the public by occupying more of its time than is due to our importance, I shall reserve what I have further to say under the present head, as well as what relates to the remaining six heads of complaint against the Colony, for future communications. In the mean time I remain, Honorable and Revd. Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ARCHIBALD McDONALD,
of Red River Settlement, district of Ossiiboia,
Rupert's Land.

(No. II.)

*To the Honorable and Reverend JOHN STRACHAN, D. D.
Member of the Executive Council, and Rector of York, in
Upper Canada.*

HONBLE. AND REVD. SIR,

A very slight examination of the facts contained in the Letter, which I had the honor of addressing to you last week, will suffice to prove, that the climate of the Settlement at Red River is much better, its situation much more accessible, and its soil infinitely more productive, than you have been taught to represent. The settlers, therefore, who agreed with Lord Selkirk to go there, were not deluded as you have affirmed, to suffer the extremes of misery and want, in an inaccessible wilderness, but were placed in a situation, where without any extraordinary exertion of industry, they would soon have begun to enjoy the comforts of plenty and independence and, in no inconsiderable degree, the luxuries to be acquired by commerce. If they paid, then, for their passage, and their lands, it must at least, be acknowledged, that they got something substantial in return. You assert, however, that the title was fundamentally bad, but, notwithstanding your raving upon this subject, as it is a question of which I cannot be supposed a competent judge, I shall enter into no discussion concerning it, further than to remark the singular circumstance, that the Rector of York, in Upper Canada, should have chosen to become an advocate for the most extravagant claims of the American government, rather than admit any thing which might seem to come in competition with the interest of his favorite Fur Traders.

As the following words are to be found in the Charter,
“ and at all times hereafter shall be, personable and capable in law to have, purchase, receive, possess, enjoy, and
“ retain,

" retain, lands, rents, privileges, liberties, jurisdictions,
 " franchises, and hereditaments of what kind, nature, or
 " quality soever they be, to them and their successors;
 " and also to give, grant, demise, alien, assign, and dis-
 " pose lands, tenements and hereditaments, and to do and
 " execute all and singular, other things, by the same name,
 " that to them shall or may appertain to do." I say as
 these words constitute a part of the Charter, it is not easy
 to account for what you affirm at page 16, in this sentence,
 " It gives the right of soil along the bays and waters to the
 " the Governor and Company, but no right of trans-
 " fer." Whether this display of your ignorance originated
 in the circumstance of your never having seen the Charter,
 on which you presume, with such solemnity and self impor-
 tance, to pass judgment; or, that on this topic, as on many
 others, you have merely delivered the sentiments of those
 who employed you, and who are much interested in repre-
 senting the Charter, as invalid, it is for you to explain! and
 in the mean time, I take this opportunity of submitting to
 the public, notwithstanding your contempt for the cloth, the
 following opinions of some of the most eminent lawyers in
 England.

" 1. We are of opinion, that the Grant of the soil, con-
 " tained in the Charter, is good, and that it will include
 " all the Country, the waters of which run into Hudson's
 " Bay, as ascertained by geographical observation.

" 2. We are of opinion, that an individual holding from
 " the Hudson's Bay Company, a lease or grant in fee sim-
 " ple of any portion of their Territory, will be entitled to
 " all the ordinary rights of landed property, as in England,
 " and will be entitled to prevent other persons from occu-
 " pying any part of the lands, from cutting down timber,
 " and fishing in the adjoining waters, (being such as a pri-
 " vate right of fishing may subsist in,) and may (peaceably
 " if he can, or otherwise in due course of law,) dispossess
 " them of any buildings which they have recently erected
 " within the limits of his property.

" 3. We are of opinion, that the Governors and Council
 " appointed

" appointed by the Company to command their establishments, are, by the Charter, lawfully authorized to try, according to the laws of England, all causes, civil or criminal, which may arise within the Company's Territories. But we cannot advise them to exercise a criminal jurisdiction, so as to affect life or limb, without a reference upon each case of conviction, to the pleasure of the Executive Government in England.

" 4. We are of opinion, that the Company may appoint a Sheriff, to execute the judgments of the Court, and that he will be entitled to exercise the same powers as a Sheriff in England, so far as they are applicable to the situation; and that in case of resistance to his authority, he may use force, so far as may be necessary for overcoming it; and we are of opinion, that the population of the country will be bound to attend him, when he calls upon them, in order to assist him in executing the judgments and process of the Court. But the Sheriff ought not to resort to the force of the population, except in cases of great necessity, where his own immediate officers are not sufficient to overcome the resistance in enforcing the judgments and process of the court, and this power cannot be exercised with too much circumspection.

" 5. We think the Governor may, under the authority of the Company, appoint constables, and other officers for the preservation of the Peace; and that the officers so appointed, will have the same duties and privileges as similar officers in England, so far as those duties and privileges may be applicable to their situation in the Territory of the Company.

" 6. We are of opinion, that the Persons will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, who reside, or are found within the Territories over which it extends.

(Signed)

" SAMUEL ROMILLY.

" WILLIAM CRUISE.

" G. S. HOLROYD.

" J. SCARLET.

" JOHN BELL."

The

The said Gentlemen gave the following opinion as to the Criminal Jurisdiction, granted to the Courts of Lower and Upper Canada, by the Act 43d, Geo. 3d. Cap. 133.

"We do not think this Act gives Jurisdiction to the Courts of Lower and Upper Canada, within the Territories of the HUNSON'S BAY COMPANY, these being within the jurisdiction of their own Governors and Council."

Signed as above.

From these it is clear, that whatever doubts may have been expressed in the particular opinions you allude to, with respect to the clauses relating to Trade and Navigation, because they have not been confirmed by Act of Parliament, they could apply to those clauses only, and not to the Grant of the Land, or to the power of jurisdiction, which, being within the prerogative of the Crown, may be conferred by the Crown alone, and cannot require the intervention of an Act of Parliament, to give them force or validity.

A number of the settlers from Sutherlandshire, who went from Orkney with me, were young people, sent out, as Macpherson says, to look at the lands, but, in reality, to take possession of their farms, to build houses, to raise a crop from the ground, and to make other preparations for the reception of the rest of their families, who were to follow them next season. I was no witness to their particular contracts, but no testimony of mine can be necessary to defend the character of the Earl of Selkirk, from the base suspicions which you have not hesitated to pronounce; that his Lordship had entered into no written agreement with these deluded people, on purpose to avoid legal consequences. Indeed you have insulted common sense, and displayed in an uncommon degree, the malignity of the motives by which you were actuated, in the series of virulent invectives, with which you attempt to fix obloquy on the reputation of that Nobleman. You have the impudence to impute to him a crime, so incredibly diabolical, that it is wonderful how even you could have conceived it. You accuse his Lordship of deeply, and maliciously plotting the total ruin of a numerous class

class of poor people, the amelioration of whose condition, is well known to have formed a principal object in his life. He next carries his plot into execution, without any possibility, as you say, of its ever proving lucrative to himself; but merely for the supreme pleasure he was to enjoy, in contemplating the misery, into which, at an enormous expence to himself, he had succeeded in plunging the helpless and unfortunate families of the emigrants. You have asserted, that Lord S. never reposed any confidence in the legal opinions above stated; and yet you say, that he proposed to pay ten thousand pounds for the title. You charge him with having foreseen that the settlers, he sent out, could never possibly become the permanent inhabitants of the place; and, yet, you accuse him of having acted with more than the cautious cunning of an avaricious land jobber. You have affirmed, that if Lord Selkirk had given the emigrants a free passage out, and their lands for nothing, he would still have been a gainer; and, yet, you pretend to have demonstrated, that the settlement could never, by any possibility, have proved successful.—You assert, that the terms, which Lord Selkirk gave to emigrants, were hard in the extreme; nothing short, in fact, of picking their pockets.—To understand this charge, your readers must remember, that the emigrants, whom his Lordship had to deal with, were persons of a very extraordinary description, whose being compelled to pay ten guineas for their passage out, and to enter into engagements to make good the price of their lands, had the same effect in enticing them to quit their homes, where, you say, they were “very comfortable,” as a premium, of a much greater amount, would have had upon persons of an ordinary character. The practice of government, in offering the temptation of a free passage, and lands for nothing, is the subject of your commendations; and, yet, in the same breath, you accuse Lord Selkirk, of enticing people to emigrate, by making them pay a high price for both. The misery, which you had foretold, as certain, has now, according to your account, been consummated, and yet Lord Selkirk undertakes, at the risk of his health, and with the certainty of encountering much personal inconvenience, the voyage to this country, and the journey into the interior, which you so arrogantly tell him, that he ought to have

done, before he began the attempt to establish the Colony. Where, now, is the foundation for the peculiar and ridiculous air of gravity and arrogance, which you assume, in talking of his not flying to the assistance of his expiring country, and disdaining to survive her fall? Of course, you will affect to believe, that his Lordship exposes himself to these dangers, merely for the delightful pleasure of being an eye witness of the misery you imagine, instead of entertaining my intention of placing the colony on a foundation, not to be shaken by disasters similar to that, which last year, furnished the subject of your triumph.

If after this exposure of the glaring fallacy of every argument, and the utter falsehood of every assertion, by which you have attempted to make it appear, that Lord Selkirk held out allurements, to induce those people to quit their native country, any person can be found so prejudiced, as to put the least confidence in what you say, I can hardly expect to alter his opinion, when I state the fact, that after every arrangement was made for the voyage, after we had all embarked, and when Lord Selkirk was taking leave, before our sailing, he told every man of the settlers, in my presence, that any who repented of his engagements, had only to say so, and that he should receive back his money on the spot, and be instantly at liberty to rejoin his family.

In the engagements, under which the indentured servants went to the colony, the terms were almost the same as those usually given by the Hudson's Bay Company, to persons of the same description, before the Colony was so much as begun, that is, to serve three years at stipulated wages, and to have a free passage out and home, at the expence of the Company. After the commencement of the Colony, they were to have the option of taking 100 acres of land, in lieu of a free passage home, if their conduct proved satisfactory, and in case they chose to remain and become independent settlers. Alexander Matheson's contract, which I had particular reason to be acquainted with, was different from the rest. He had a dislike to being an indentured servant for three years, and was very desirous of going out as a settler; but, as he had no money to pay for his passage, he agreed to en-
gage

gaged himself as a servant, for one year, from the time of his arrival at the colony, Lord Selkirk engaging to give him lands, at the end of that year, on the same footing as to other settlers; and as Lord Selkirk reserved the right of transferring Matheson's services for the whole, or any part of that year, to any other person, he engaged, in case of his being thus transferred to the Hudson's Bay Company, and of their employing him at a distance, to be at the expense of his ultimate conveyance to the settlement, when his twelvemonth's service should have expired. The twelvemonth's service therefore, constituted what he was to give, instead of paying in money for his passage out, and gave him no better claim to a passage home, without paying for it, than any other settler had — Most of the people from South-Englandshire, formed their engagements, before they left their own parishes to come to Stromness; but Matheson followed them of his own accord, and only there, did his solicitations, aided by the intervention of a Gentleman, who was friendly to him, obtain Lord Selkirk's assent to the singular contract under which he went out.

He became, afterwards, rather dissatisfied with the terms of his contract, either on account of the unavoidable detention at Church-hill, or from some other reason, and was not even reconciled to it, though his lot of land had been laid out and marked, to be delivered to him as soon as his period of service should have expired. To remove every pretext for complaint, I proposed to him, by order of the Governor, on the evening of the 5th of June last, the following offer:— His term of service to be reckoned from the day of his embarkation in Orkney, just as if he had originally signed a contract to that effect, to have £20 a year, a free passage out and home, if required, and of course his victuals for the whole time. These singularly favorable terms he would not accept, demanding £30 for the last of the three years.— Where, then, is the foundation for your clamour respecting the injustice of his not being entitled to a free passage home, and for the tales of a fellow, whose base ingratitude, for the treatment he received, can only be equalled by the gross disregard of truth, which you have manifested, in volunteering to become the publisher of such falsehoods?

Every

Every allegation and argument, which you have advanced concerning Lord Selkirk's conduct, in regard to the contracts with the emigrants, being now completely disproved and refuted, it may be proper, before quitting the subject, to notice the colouring, with which you have attempted to ornament it, by making Matheson say, that Lord Selkirk went round the country like a recruiting serjeant. That military comparison is so much of a piece with a happy metaphor of your own, at page 22 of your pamphlet, where you have done his Lordship the honor of promoting him to the rank of a General, that any person comparing the two passages together, will readily perceive, that they are both the production of one genius; and that this is one of the instances in which you are entitled to the credit, of having employed your well known rhetorical powers, to embellish the statements of which the emigrants only furnished the ground work. Such language, in your mouth is, indeed, nothing but natural, as it only shews, that you have not yet been able to reduce to a peace establishment, that great mind, which, in your own opinion, has had so important a part to perform, in directing and passing judgment on the operations of the late war.

Although my observations, concerning other complaints against the Colony, will be much less extended, than the remarks I have made on your representations with respect to the contracts, yet, that we may not intrude too long at once upon the time of the public, I shall postpone what I have further to say, till a future opportunity; in the mean time, I remain, as before,

Honble. and Rev. Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ARCHIBALD McDONALD.

of Red River Settlement,
District of Ossimboia, Rupert's Land.

Montreal, May 29, 1816.

To

(No. III.)

*To the Honorable and Reverend JOHN STRACHAN, D. D.
Member of the Executive Council, and Rector of York, in
Upper Canada.*

HONBLE. AND REVD. SIR,

My last letter will suffice to show, that the rights of landed property at the Colony on Red River, are as secure, in as far as a legal title goes, as in any other part of the King's dominions, and that the terms of the contracts with the emigrants, were no higher than was necessary, in order to be certain, that they were actually in earnest in their apparent anxiety to become Settlers, and that they were not mere vagabonds wishing to escape from debts or crimes. I proceed now to examine some of the other subjects of their complaints, in the order already pointed out. 2. *Voyage from Scotland to Churchill.* Matheson says that they were well used on the voyage, but M'Pherson complains that they were ordered to keep watch with the sailors; a great hardship to be sure, especially as the regulation was not complied with! It was intended that the effective men should be divided for the voyage, into three watches, and it is well known that sailors generally are in two. To the obstinacy of the emigrants in not submitting to this regulation, and to others for the preservation of health, which Lord Selkirk had taken the pains of writing for their government and advantage, must be ascribed, the great progress of the fever. It was evident, at the time, that the contagion had been brought on board about the person of one of the women, who was unfortunately taken ill a few days after we sailed. This suspicion was confirmed, by the intelligence brought out by the ships next season, that the same disease had proved fatal, soon after we sailed, to several individuals in the neighbourhood, and especially to a man, at whose house the above woman had lodged, while waiting at Stromness.

No

No effectual measures could be enforced for arresting the progress of the disease, for all our remonstrances, to induce the passengers to do what was necessary, were of no avail. A regulation for airing the bedding at regular intervals, was totally disregarded, and even those who were well, refused to take the trouble of assisting the sick. Of upwards of ninety emigrants, about sixty had the disease, two of whom died on the passage, and six, after our arrival at Churchill; two men and two women died in the course of the Winter and Spring of consumption. They were manifestly of a consumptive habit, when they embarked, and one of them had not had the fever at all. All the rest, notwithstanding what you say about the ruin of their health, recovered, with a rapidity which would have been the subject of astonishment, even in the most favorable circumstances. We had reached the Straits, when Mr. la Serre, the Surgeon, died, a gentleman whose kind and unwearied attention to the sick, secured to him, while alive, the esteem of all on board. It was no wonder, therefore, that the loss of a life so valuable to us all, in our critical circumstances, threw us into some consternation.

The ship having arrived in the Bay, with so many sick on board, the Surgeon being lately dead, the wind being adverse for going to York Factory, where we were daily expected, but, above all, the obstinate refusal of the passengers to submit to any regulation, were the circumstances which induced the Captain to take advantage of the wind, and steer for Churchill harbour, where we were not looked for, and where consequently no preparations had been made for our reception. This ill judged step led to much inconvenience, and had it not been for uncommon exertion, on the part of the officers and clerks of the Hudson's Bay Company at that place, to show the settlers what they had to do, and even to constrain them to do what was indispensable for their own preservation, their neglect must have led to a scarcity of provisions, and to a want of every necessary accommodation during the winter.

3. *Provisions.*—In reply to the complaints of the emigrants in regard to their provisions, I present the rations they had,

had, at the different periods, from the time they embarked at Stromness, till they deserted the settlement to go to Canada.

During the passage, each mess, of twelve persons, including children, received daily, Beef or Pork, one piece of eight pounds, Biscuit five pounds, Oatmeal fifteen pounds. Barley or Split Pease, in Soup, six pounds, and Molasses at pleasure. About ninety gallons of Jamaica Rum was likewise served out, during the passage to Churchill, though the number of effective men did not at any time exceed forty.

While at Churchill, during the winter, the provisions were served out weekly, as follow: Oatmeal 672 lbs. Pease 60 lbs. or half that quantity of Pearl Barley, Molasses 54 lbs. Partridges 240 in number, equivalent to one pound each, Beef or Pork 54 lbs. This quantity among eighty persons, men women and children, comes within a fraction of 2 lbs. per day, for each individual, all positively good and wholesome food; and let it be remembered, that this was in a situation, where it would have been necessary to have put the whole on short allowance, from the day of their arrival, had not Lord Selkirk sent out in the ship a much greater quantity of provisions than was necessary for the voyage.

On our route into the interior, in the spring, the quantity served out every week, consisted of Oatmeal 98 lbs. China Rice best quality 106 lbs. Biscuit 40 lbs. sound Pemican 100 lbs. Irish Pork 228 lbs. This was divided among the fifty emigrants who went with me on this journey, so as to allow 2 lbs. per day to 30, who were working hands, and to the remaining 20, who were women and men employed in the boats, at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per day.

At the settlement, the provisions served out weekly to the settlers individually, consisted of Pemican, 7 lbs. Buffaloe Fat $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Potatoes, as soon as they came in season, on an average 63 lbs. but, in the latter article, they were seldom restricted to any quantity till some of them, having determin-
ed

ed to go to Canada, began to grow careless, how much they wasted, and how much injury they did to the Colony. During the summer after our arrival, and until the 16th of November, 1814, the first day on which the river was completely frozen over, they generally had the best of fish without any restriction as to quantity, and, if these failed from any cause for a day or two, then Pemican was served out. As a specimen of the abundance they enjoyed, from the time of their arrival at the settlement, till the potatoes became ripe, I here state the quantities served out, to each individual, during four consequent weeks, included in that period, as extracted from the Provision Book, Pemican 24 lbs. Cat fish 21 in number, each weighing about 8 lbs.

As for Matheson's rations individually, they are not stated on my Books, because he always victualled, when at the settlement, with the other contracted servants, whose general allowance was 2 lbs. Pemican daily, which is as much as men are known to consume, when left to take it at pleasure, they never had less than 1½ lb. unless catfish and potatoes were so abundant, that they did not require so much Pemican.

Such was the general fare, on which the emigrants, who came out with me from Stromness, subsisted, during the different periods, that I had any superintendence of their supplies. I know not what may have been the fare of such emigrants as Dr. Strachan, during that part of his life which he passed in Scotland, but, I am warranted, from a general knowledge of the mode of living among the peasantry in Sutherlandshire, in saying, that there were very few among those, who went out with me, who did not consume more animal food, during the time in which the above rations were supplied, than they had ever done in any equal period of their lives before. Indeed, I have no fear of being contradicted, when I say, that the generality of these people, often pass months and months together without tasting animal food, unless Milk, Butter, and Cheese, be considered of that description.

For the sake of those who had never been in the Indian country, it may be necessary here to explain, that Pemican

is a preparation of meat, very ingeniously contrived by the Indians for preserving it without salt. The lean of the Buffalo beef, or of venison, is dried by the heat of a fire, and is then pounded small, mixed in a large trough, with melted fat, and crammed, while still warm, into bags made of Buffalo hide. When cold, it becomes hard and impenetrable to the air, and if kept dry, will be found perfectly good for a long period of time. I have, myself, eaten it after 18 months; and I have been told, that it may be kept for years. It may be mentioned as a proof of the wholesomeness of this article of diet, that, there was scarcely any sickness known among the emigrants, after our arrival at the settlement, and that those who subsist upon it for the greater part of their lives, are well known to be robust, healthy, and athletic men; although they are frequently known to live for years together without tasting bread or vegetable diet.

Notwithstanding the fertility of the soil, it was never expected, that it would be so fully taken advantage of, the first summer after our arrival at the settlement, limited as we were in the quantities of seed, as to produce a supply sufficient for the additional number of persons who thus joined it that summer, including, not only those that came out with me in 1813, but also those settlers that came from England in 1814. The total number of settlers, before our arrival, did not exceed six families, and each of these, though they had not begun their improvements till the summer of 1813, had delivered into the general store, some part of their produce, consisting of potatoes, barley, wheat, and turnips, after reserving what was necessary for seed, and the consumption of their own families. Most of the new comers, of course, had raised nothing out of the ground, and it was an imperative duty, incumbent on the Governor, to take advantage of the other means of subsistence, which the country possessed, till the crop of 1815 should be got off the ground, when, from the quantity of seed set apart, he knew there would be no further probability of a scarcity. Indeed, when it is considered, that, before the middle of January of that year, a number of the settlers had determined to go to Canada; that, from that time, till they actually set out in the canoes of the North West Company, their whole time and attention

was occupied in idleness, or in violent assaults upon our lives and property; that the crops which had been put in the ground by those who intended to remain in the country, had been frequently trampled down by the men and horses employed in these attacks; that in the month of June last, after the Governor was taken prisoner by the North West Company, their partisans burnt down our houses, and the mill of the settlement; and yet, that by the end of September, those of the settlers who returned to the settlement, had succeeded in securing the quantity of grain and potatoes, mentioned in my first letter, it must be manifest, that, if the whole of the settlers had directed their undivided attention to the cultivation of their lands, they must have been, before another winter, far removed from any necessity of depending on any thing, but the produce of their farms for their subsistence. Till then, however, it was necessary and proper to make every exertion to secure a supply by hunting, and with this view, the Governor proposed, about the middle of January, to take eight or ten of the young and active men of the settlers with him to our establishment at Pembina, 90 miles up the river, where there was a large store of potatoes, and where it was his intention to employ them, for a month or two in winter, with a number of the contracted servants already there, in hunting and drying Buffalo meat, to serve the settlers till the harvest time. They were all prevailed upon, by the North West Company's agents, to refuse to go. They were made believe, or pretended to believe, that it was the intention of the Governor to employ them as soldiers, in an attack upon the servants of the North West Company, at Turtle River, a place 70 or 80 miles above Pembina; but the truth was, that, before this time, they had resolved to go to Canada in the canoes of the North West Company, as soon as the navigation should be open, and, as they knew, that the store contained much more than enough of provisions to serve till the time of their departure, they felt no anxiety about what should become of those who remained behind, and it was an object openly and studiously pursued by the agents of the North West Company, to embarrass, as much as possible, the operations of the Governor of the colony, and to oppose its prosperity, by every obstacle in their power.

The means, which they took to effect this object, were of an extraordinary nature. They took pains to represent every inconvenience, to which the new situation of the settlers necessarily exposed them, as a part of a design, contrived by the officers of the colony to effect their ruin; they told them, that it was impossible for the Colony to prosper, and impressed them with terrors for the native Indians, of whose hostile determinations they frequently pretended to have received intelligence by letters from distant quarters, producing and reading, publicly, letters from their own agents, contrived for the purpose, and they endeavoured particularly by such means to make the women exert their influence over their husbands and families. Mr. Duncan Cameron, a Partner and Agent of the North West Company, who admitted the common settlers to a familiar intercourse with him, frequently pretended to compassionate the deplorable condition of his country-women in that unknown country, and to commiserate the dreadful situation, in which they must be, when the Indians should come to put in execution the general massacre they meditated. As the Indians in the neighbourhood had always conducted themselves in a manner that proved their friendly intentions towards the Colony, Cameron could not hope to gain entire credit for such representations, so that he was obliged to add to them the most flattering pictures of Canada, by telling the settlers, that all the Highlanders, who had settled there, had now become rich, and that the North-West Company had great influence with the government there, which should all be exerted to procure them lands. Several of them positively declare, that they were promised Lands in Upper Canada, as well as provisions, cattle and agricultural implements. Mr. Cameron endeavoured to add to the effect of these representations and promises, by boasting of having the authority of government, for whatever he did, and he frequently tried to excite the Colonists to rebellion against the officers of the Colony, by telling them, that the governor had no authority whatever, that the Charter of the Hudson's Bay Company was no better than waste paper, and that Lord Selkirk, in sending them to that country, had no object in view, except to effect their destruction by the savages. The natives in the neighbourhood resisted all his solicitations to take up arms against

us. One of their Chiefs even proposed to become a mediator, and to settle amicably whatever differences might have led to his hostility to the Colony. This humane proposal, when offered to Mr. Cameron, was treated with contempt, and its author drew upon himself, not only open insults, but threats of violence, from the servants of the North West Company, who scoffingly called him the Peace maker. A number of Indians were even brought from a distance, in the North West Company's batteaux, to co-operate in the violent attacks frequently repeated upon the houses of the Colony, but notwithstanding the most profuse donations of rum and promises of guns, ammunition, &c. &c. they could not be prevailed upon to fire upon us, knowing well, that the successful establishment of the Colony was sure to lead to a protection from the despotic power, which the North West Company so generally and so cruelly exercised over them, and that they would never be exposed to the risk of perishing, from want of success in hunting, when the cultivation of the land should have once introduced, into their country, a new means of satisfying their wants. In various attacks, which were made during the siege of the government house, the North West Company's agents were, therefore, obliged to employ openly their own clerks and servants, together with such of the settlers as they had prevailed upon to revolt against the government. The forces thus employed, were led out in military array, being previously well trained, and exercised for the purpose.



To be at the head of persons, so employed, without any authority, would have been no better than to be the Chief of a Banditti and Mr. Cameron, therefore, both to soothe his own pride and to preserve his influence among them, found it necessary to assume, at least, the appearance of legal authority. He accordingly styled himself Captain Cameron, Commanding Officer in the District of Red River, while Mr. Alexander M'Donell, another partner of the North West Company, took the rank of Lieutenant, and one of their clerks, that of Ensign, under Cameron's command. Under this title, Cameron signed various papers, in the shape of bulletins and proclamations; he used daily to boast that he had the King's authority for whatever he ordered to be done; falsely

falsely asserting that he held a Captain's Commission in His Majesty's service, and that he was an officer on actual service, though the short lived corps of Voyageurs, to which he pretended to have belonged, had been reduced two years before. As Officer in command, however, he chose to give himself brevet rank, and at Balls, and on many other occasions, he wore the uniform of a Major, with two Epaulets, and the sword of a field officer, with a waist belt and metal scabbard. This uniform was said to have belonged to Mr. Archd. N. McLeod, another Partner of the North West Company, who had held the commission of Major in the above mentioned Corps. This gentleman had issued a Warrant, as a civil Magistrate for the Indian Territories, to apprehend our Governor, under a groundless accusation of Felony; and seems to have felt such zeal, in securing the object of his warrant; that he even lent his old uniform, to serve as a disguise for the agent who was to enforce it. The pretended military character thus assumed by the agents and partners of the North West Company, was well calculated to make an impression on the ignorant settlers and half-breeds, who used to boast of that authority for every insult they offered to us, and for every atrocity they committed.

The influence of Mr. Cameron among the settlers was very much increased by pretensions of personal friendship towards them. He used to treat the men, on every occasion with rum, and the women with wine, shrub, tea, Buffalo tongues; and in short, every luxury that his house could afford, entertaining them with sumptuous Balls, at least once a week. The common labourers were always made welcome, to sit down at his table, and to partake of whatever he had. Such were the means, by which they were prevailed upon not to go to Pembina with the governor. Notwithstanding their refusal, I continued to supply them as usual with provisions, and endeavoured, frequently to prevail upon them to follow the Governor, who had gone to Pembina without them, till it became manifest, that their object, in remaining behind, was to consume as much of our stock of provisions as possible, and to get every thing they could out of the Colonial Stores, before setting off for Canada.

They

They accordingly employed themselves systematically in endeavouring by dint of importunity, to get every thing they could out of the Colonial stores, having received promises to be paid, for every thing they brought to Cameron's house before their departure in the canoes. Their demands for various articles, were incessantly repeated, and my refusals, had frequently been followed by threats of violence on their part, when at last they did not scruple to tell me, that they had resolved to go to Canada with Mr. Cameron, who had offered them a free passage, and to take them to a better country. The threatening language, which they had used, made me very desirous to get rid of the company of some of the most violent among them, and, with this view, I told some of them on the 20th February, that, since they had engaged with Mr. Cameron to go to Canada, and, as that had been the true cause why they had refused to go to Pembina, they must look to Mr. Cameron, and not to the Colonial Store for provisions, for the time they were to remain, as I did not consider myself justified in giving provisions to his people; but I added, that, if they chose still to go to Pembina, I should supply them with what was necessary for the journey. They said they would, but immediately added, "we must first consult Captain Cameron," and on saying this, they went directly to his house, not above $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile. In about an hour, they returned and made a number of demands, as conditions for their setting off, so unreasonable, that I refused to comply with them. They then told me, that, if I did not comply with their demands, they would not go, and that Capt. Cameron had told them, that they might break open the store and supply themselves by force, without committing a felony, in case I continued to refuse the supplies of which the stores contained plenty; adding that they were determined to act by that advice. These threats, though backed by the legal opinion of Mr. Cameron, who, in addition to the character of an officer in the king's service, seems to have assumed, on this occasion, the office of a Counsellor, did not intimidate me so as to induce me to abandon the resolution, to supply provisions only to those who had not avowed their engagements with Cameron, and who had not openly insulted and threatened the officers of the Colony. Two days afterwards some of them came and told me, that they were ready

ready to go to Pembina, on the conditions that I had offered before, and, upon this, I furnished them with ammunition and other articles for the journey. Their plan had been concerted with Cameron, who took this means to obtain that supply of ammunition, for, no sooner had the men got it from me, than they went and delivered both it and their guns to him, and, taking a letter, which he wished to send to his agent at Turtle River, they set off, IN HIS SERVICE, for that place, without those things which they had represented to me as absolutely indispensable for the journey. On the way up to Turtle River, they met with the governor above Pembina, who told them that the season was now too far advanced for the purpose of hunting, and endeavoured to persuade them to return, to be ready to cultivate the grounds on the breaking up of the frost. They would not comply, saying, that I had told them that they should get no more provisions out of the stores, and that, as they had come so far, they would not go back without seeing Turtle River; taking care, however, to conceal the real object of their journey, which was to deliver Cameron's letter to his agent there. The Governor, unacquainted with the motive, and finding them intractable, gave them what provisions his own party could spare.

During the few days that these refractory men were refused provisions by me, they were supplied by Mr. Cameron, who employed them, and I believe no person will envy the share of merit for humanity, which you may lay claim to for your friends, the fur traders, on that account.

4th. *Work imposed upon the Settlers.* They complain of the hardship of being obliged to build huts and tents for their own use, at Churchill, but they do not state, that Lord Selkirk had been at the expence of sending out, in the ship, 12 marquee tents, each constructed for containing 16 persons, and that they refused to lend the sailors any assistance, to get them out of the ship, until they had received promises of payment for their work, which payment was accordingly made in goods at York Factory. They complain of being obliged to erect their huts at the distance of 12 miles from Churchill Factory; "because," says Matheson, "the Clerks were afraid of the sickness." The true cause was, that they might

might be near the wood, for the convenience of building and firewood; and likewise, that they might be on good hunting ground, an object which was completely and fortunately secured. The greater part of their winter supply of provisions had been sent from Churchill in boats, before the winter set in, so that the whole of the work they had to employ themselves in, during the winter, consisted in bringing some additional supplies on sledges, and in assisting some of the contracted servants, to provide themselves, and the officers superintending them, with fire wood. They complain of this as a monstrous hardship, though each man's turn to go to Churchill, did not come round above 8 or 10 times in the course of the season. Had they been suffered to remain idle at Churchill, till the winter set in, their hardships must have been much more considerable, and yet, they complain of having had to work at the building of their houses on a Sunday, in circumstances where it was an imperious duty, on those, who were acquainted with the climate, to over-rule such scruples for the accomplishment of so necessary an object. In case the ship had sprung a leak at sea, they might, with as much reason, have complained of being obliged to work at the pumps on a Sunday.

They complain, next, of the difficulties of the land journey to York Factory, in April. (not in March, as they have stated) The object of that journey was, to ensure their being at York Factory, as soon as the rivers opened, so that there might be no delay, in their reaching the settlement, in time to prepare their houses. The most active of the men and women, volunteered to accompany me on that journey, and, certainly, the provisions were dragged on hand sledges, as is the custom in that part of the country, but never above half the weight they speak of, and even that was of course, daily growing less. It was not necessary to take more provisions with us at any one time, because the hunters, employed by the Governors at Churchill and York Factories, had been directed to lay up provisions for us at different places on the route, so that we always had an abundance; such of the men as had no women of their own family on this journey, were paid before starting, for hauling upon their sledges, the provisions, and bedding, of such of the women as had no male relation in the company. They

They, next, complain of the hardship of tracking the boats, and of the want of shoes. Besides the Moccasins delivered to them, before leaving York Factory, I gave each of the men five pairs, without charging for them, when we reached the tracking ground; which is more than the Hudson's Bay Company usually allow their people, in the same distance, and, as a proof that none of them had, at any time, to walk without moccasins; I have only to state, that there were twenty pairs remaining in store, after our arrival at the Colony. If these people expected, that they were to have sat in the boats, while other men were employed to tow them up the rivers, it is certainly more than they had any right to look for.

5. *Prices of Articles furnished out of the Stores.* Andrew MacBeath, and William Gunn, near the beginning of their statement, as you have reported it, say, that they were charged with hoes 10s, axes, 15s; and thin small copper kettles 30s. A few lines farther on, they forget what they had said at the beginning, and complain that they never were told the prices of any thing. After such a downright contradiction, what credit is due to the tales, which, with your intrusive assistance, they have contrived to propagate? The prices of these articles as charged, without distinction, in their accounts, may be judged of by the following specimens. Andrew MacBeath is charged with one London made hoe, 5s 1d; for one made at the settlement 4s 6d; for one London made felling axe, on the American model, 7s. 6d; for one small axe 2s. 6d.; and for copper kettles, the regular price was 6s. 8d. per lb. The public may compare those prices with those of the same articles at Montreal, where hoes of the same description are sold for 5s; felling axes 9s; small axes 4s. 1d. I find no copper kettles in Montreal, of the same description, as those we used at the settlement. They are made remarkably thin, on account of lightness, for carriage by inland conveyance, and are tinned inside; but some guess may be formed of the value of such articles, when I state, that the price of plain sheet copper in Montreal, is from 4s 6d to 5s pr. lb. At the Grand Portage, where the enterprize and monopoly of the Fur Traders are unresisting, felling axes are sold at 24s. small axes 9s; and copper

copper kettles, of the description now mentioned, at 19s 6d per pound.

In order that the public may not be confined, in forming their judgement of the facility of communication, from Red River settlement, to England, by Hudson's Bay, from the prices of so limited a number of articles, I think it right to subjoin these, as well as a few others, as usually retailed, from the Colonial Stores, placing in columns beside them, for the sake of a fair comparison, the selling prices of similar articles at Montreal, at York, in Upper Canada, and at the Grand Portage, on Lake Superior.

The prices, here mentioned, are in sterling money. Those charged at the Red River are taken from the accounts of the settlers in my possession, and, of course, are higher than the prices of the same articles at York Factory, in Hudson's Bay. Those at Montreal, I have ascertained, by particular enquiry on the spot, and those at York in Upper Canada, were procured from a Gentleman, well acquainted with the subject, who says, that they are somewhat under the prices current there, at the time you wrote your pamphlet. If those at the Grand Portage, as charged by the North West Company, are not so high as I say, you will no doubt, easily procure the means of contradicting my statement; but I have reason to believe, that if there are deviations from exactness in that column, they are such as you will not think it suitable to your purpose to correct.

ARTICLES.

PRICES.

		R. River Set		Montreal		York, U. C.		Grand Portage	
		S.	D.	S.	D.	S.	D.	S.	D.
Loes (Corn)	no.	5	1	5		11	3		
Axes felling		7	6	9		13	6	24	
do small		2	6	4	1	7	2½	9	
Copper Bettles	lbs	6	8					13	6
Cotton Shirts	no.	7		5	5	13	6	18	
Hats, common		7		7	3	11	3	18	
Cravats, woollen		2	3	3	2	4	6		
Check Cotton, best quality									
	yard.	2		1	10	2	8½	9	
Cotton Hdkfs. large	no.	4	4	4		4	9	17	8
Hosiery Duck	pr.	7	4	7		7	8		
Cloth, blue or green, 64									
yard wide	yd.	11	10	12	6	16	2	18	
Cloth, Grey	yd.	7	6	9					
Jackets Kersey,	no.	15	9	14	2				
Stockings, worsted	pr.	2	7	2	9	4	6	12	2
Combs, Ivory	no.	1	2	1	3	2	3	4	6
Pots, tin, 1 gal,	no.	4	6	5	5	9	5½		
do 1 qt.		1	4	1	6	3	4½		
Pans, small		1	9	2	1	3	4½		
Knives, Clasp		1		1	1	1	2	3	
Gun Powder	lb.	3	6	3	9	2	8	15	
Shot			6½		7	1	1½	4	6
Buttons, common gilt 2d									
best	doz.	1	9					9	

As some of the York prices are lower than those at Montreal, it can only be accounted for from differences in the quantities of articles, but it is safest to calculate, only, by things in which there can be little doubt, as to the article meant.

Reckoning upon this principle, it will be found, that the Settlers were supplied in Ossimboin with goods, above 100 per cent cheaper than at York, the capital of Upper Canada,

da, and above 30 per cent cheaper, than they could have purchased them at Montreal, the commercial metropolis of British North America, where they may be landed out of a ship, direct from England.

The very prices of which the settlers so absurdly complain, will serve to shew, in addition to what I have already said, on that subject, that the communication with England, by Hudson's Bay, is not so enormously difficult as you have laboured to represent it; and that you have only displayed your total ignorance, by presuming to write professedly on a subject, on which your information was so inaccurate, and the peculiar virulence of your motives, by attempting to make it appear, without the shadow of evidence, that every agent at the Colony, was as ready to impose upon the settlers, as you have proved yourself disposed to traduce our characters.

It may, now, be worth while to enquire, what prices the settlers received for the same articles, on delivering them to the North West Company, when they embarked in the canoes of that Company, for Canada. According to the affidavits of some of those very men, as taken before a Magistrate at York in Upper Canada, it appears, that two shillings was the price they received for felling axes, when they delivered them to the North West Company. One man states, that Mr. Cameron paid him, in all, twenty eight shillings and six pence, for one felling axe, one shovel, one frying pan, two copper kettles, and an iron crank, for hanging the kettles on the fire. Most of these articles had been charged, on the books, against the settlers, but I can aver, that not one of them had a shovel, which was not the property of the Earl of Selkirk. It may be doubted, however, whether stolen goods have often been purchased at so low a rate, as these settlers were allowed by the North West Company, for things which they had not paid for.

As you profess to be so well acquainted with "the great enterprize, and the savings on outfits necessary for carrying on successfully the Canadian Fur Trade," perhaps you may be able to give to the public, the prices which the same articles

ticles must have cost the North West Company, had they brought them by the usual conveyance, from Montreal, to the place where they received them from the settlers, so as to skew the rate of profit, which they contrived to make, by this transaction. Lest I should fall into an error, in the calculation, I shall not attempt it any further, than to state, that, at the Grand Portage, which is not above half the distance, goods are usually sold fully 200 per cent above the Montreal prices. The settlers themselves, I am informed, say, that they were induced to part with many articles, in expectation of finding them cheaper in Canada, and do not now scruple to lament the error, into which they find, that they had fallen.

As for the articles of Rum and Tobacco, the prices that the settlers complain of, need very little explanation. At the time of embarking at Stromness, not above eight out of the whole of the emigrants made use of Tobacco; but when I came to retail it at Churchill, I was surprised to find, that there were only two men, of whom M'Beath was one, who did not make use of it: "because we do not pay for it immediately," said they, "let us have plenty of the Earl's Tobacco, and also of his good Rum," but when they were told that they must pay in cash 5s per lb for the Tobacco, and 12s per gallon for the Rum, the information had so good an effect, that only £6 was collected, for both articles, during the time that they were at Churchill. Those that went for their provisions to Churchill, were regularly supplied with Rum gratuitously, while so employed. At the Colony, Rum and Tobacco were supplied on credit, the same as other articles, and notwithstanding Macbeath and Gunn's complaints, about the prices, and of having had to pay in ready money, I have to inform you, that there never was a penny paid by either of them, and there is not even a charge for tobacco in their accounts.

This letter is already so extended, that it is necessary to
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refer my further observations to another week, and in the
mean time, I continue,

Honble. and Rev. Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ARCHIBALD McDONALD,

of Red River Settlement,

District of Ossiniboia, Rupert's Land.

Montreal, 6th June, 1816.

(No. IV.)

*To the Honorable and Reverend JOHN STRACHAN, D. D.
Member of the Executive Council, and Rector of York, in
Upper Canada.*

HONBLE. AND REVD. SIR,

The facts contained in my last letter, will serve to inform the public, of some of the means, resorted to by the Fur Traders, to render the settlers discontented at the Colony and to explain the origin of some of the tales of distress, which you have labored to circulate, without allowing yourself to hear but one side of the question. I proceed now to examine their complaints, concerning their baggage, and the personal treatment they received, from the Officer of the Colony.

6. *Baggage.* With respect to this article, as it was impossible, for those who went with me, by land, from Churchill to York Factory, to take the whole of their baggage along with them; the greatest part of it was left in charge of their friends, who were to be forwarded, by water, to York Factory, and afterwards up the rivers to the Colony. It was a part of Lord Selkirk's agreement with the settlers, that each grown person should be entitled to have two packages, of about $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. each, and each person under 15 years of age, to have one such package conveyed with them, from York Factory to the settlement, at his Lordship's expence. The clerks who had the charge of bringing the remainder of the settlers up from York Factory, permitted them to embark their own baggage, and what, they said, belonged to their friends, as far as there was room, in the boats, and gave them an assurance, that the remainder should be sent by the earliest opportunity. Some of these people, however, took with them a quantity of their own baggage, exceeding the stipulated allowance; and, when they arrived at the settlement,

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it was no doubt vexations, for those who had gone up with me, to see that very little of their baggage had been brought up, while some of those who had had a comparatively easy conveyance, brought the whole of theirs along with them. There certainly ought to have been more efficient arrangements made for preventing this disappointment; and I freely acknowledge, that there is blame due on that account. It is not true, however, that they suffered any material inconvenience from the want of their things, for they were supplied from the stores with clothing well suited for the climate, the men with leather toggies or capots, and leather trowsers, which are much better and warmer than cloth, (McBeath in particular, had both,) and the women with stout duffle petticoats, and good grey cloth pelisses, made for them in England, to be used on the passage to the colony. They were undoubtedly charged with the clothing supplied to them, and it was so far, a hardship to be without their baggage; but as to their allegation, that their things never were forwarded from York Factory, it is positively false, for, before the date of the story you retail for them, I had delivered them, to their fathers, brothers, and other relations, on their arrival at York Factory, from Scotland, last fall, who took them along with their own baggage to the colony, in as good a condition, whatever they may say to the contrary, as when they were left at Churchill. From this it appears, that, if they had remained at the colony till the arrival of their relations, who came from Scotland, in consequence of their recommendations, they would not have sustained even the appearance of ultimate loss, by their baggage having been left at Churchill.

Their tales about being frost-bit, are scarcely worth notice, as nothing of that kind occurred more than what often happens in Canada, and what to my knowledge happened some times in London, last winter; that is, a man's nose, or his cheeks, being slightly touched with the frost, for a few minutes. If any of them had ever gone the length of becoming an open sore, you might have been shewn the marks.

7. *Treatment, experienced personally by the Settlers.*—As I am particularly mentioned by the settlers, as having behaved harshly

harshly and unkindly, it is reasonable that I should be permitted to speak of my own conduct, for the necessary purpose of exonerating myself from these charges. In the first place, the duty imposed upon me, of delivering the articles out of the stores, was a very unthankful office; they frequently made very unreasonable demands, even when their intentions were honest, and it always fell upon me, to give the refusal to such applications. The demands which they made of course, always seemed just and reasonable in their own eyes; they were therefore frequently reiterated, and the repeated refusals, which I had to make, very naturally led them to look upon me as personally disagreeable. I found it impossible to get rid of their importunities, till at last I adopted a resolution, of giving nothing whatever, without a written order. Notwithstanding this disagreeable situation, where I could hardly avoid giving offence, the story that you have told for them, concerning me, is very different from what they wrote to their friends in Scotland, at least, if I may credit what the latter told me, on their arrival at York Factory, last fall.

Their having been frequently bled to prevent snow blindness, advanced by them as a proof of one of the dangers and hardships of which they complain, furnishes, likewise an evidence that their complaints were not unattended to.

As for what they say about the devil growing blind, and about going to the moon, if I had heard any person talking in that manner, I should have imagined that he was either a native of the moon, or some how under the influence of that Planet; and if ever such expressions escaped my lips, my thoughts, at the time, must have been wandering in that direction; as it appears yours must have been, when you expected credit for circulating such stories.

When they determined to rob the Government House, of the artillery and muskets, provided for the defence of the colony, they were glad of an excuse to palliate such an outrage; and they accordingly, raised a report, that these arms were to be used to prevent their going to Canada; but, I defy them to prove, that any such expression ever was made

use of, by me; or by any authority from the Governor. If such a report had been founded in truth, it could not justify people, who were in debt, for assaulting and plundering their creditors, far less could it justify acts of high treason, in the shape of lawless attacks, with fire arms; upon a Governor, holding his appointment by the authority of a charter under the Great Seal of England.

Another subject of complaint, is, that they never were allowed to see the state of their accounts, and that they never were paid the balances due to them. It was arranged, even before they left Scotland, that whatever wages the settlers might earn, for work done on the establishment, should be put to the credit of their accounts; and that whatever goods were furnished out of the stores, should be charged against them. As you are so willing to interfere in this business, you may inform them that they are credited for labour, Macpherson, with £3 7s. 8d; William Gunn and father with £5 7s 8d; and Macbeath with £1 14s 6d—being allowed for one day's mowing 3s; for a woman weeding potatoes 1s; digging potatoes 2d per keg, of 8 gallons, and their victuals; and you may add, that the Dr. sides of their accounts are much more considerable.

Any articles of produce, which any individual raised, on his farm, beyond what was necessary for the use of his own family, was to be delivered into the colonial stores at a fixed price to be placed to the credit of the person who had been so industrious, and to be afterwards distributed at the same price, to supply the necessities of those who were not so well provided. The accounts, thus kept, were to be balanced at regular times, when every person was to be at liberty, in a public manner, to enquire concerning the various items, and to ascertain the balance for or against him. The whole of the settlers justly reposed perfect confidence in this arrangement, while they remained steady in their intentions, to adhere to their engagements, and this satisfaction never was interrupted, and still exists among those who retired with me, and the other Officers, when the violence of the partizans of the North West Company, drove us from our habitations because we did not choose to accept of their forced kindness,

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to rescue us from the misery they occasioned, and to take a passage to Canada, against our inclinations, against our engagements, and against our true interests. The joy with which they saw us depart, and the shouts which they raised, on beholding the flames and smoke rising from our dwellings, to which they had set fire, are a sufficient proof, that their pretended compassion for our situation, was not the true cause of their anxiety, to induce us to take a passage, in their canoes, to Upper Canada. The zeal of your friends, the dealers in furs to provide for our happiness, was so nearly allied to that of the odious bigots, who used to condemn a man to the flames in this world, on purpose to secure his salvation in the next, that it may well be doubted whether they would have permitted us to retire so peaceably, and to save so much of our property as we fortunately did, had they not been afraid of our friends, the native Indians, who aided us in embarking our cattle, and other effects, and escorted us down the river, and who implored us, in the most affecting language, to return in more strength and protect them from the insults which they were perpetually subjected to, by the partizans of the North West Company. This is no ideal picture; it is nothing but the truth, a truth to which every one of the settlers who then accompanied me, is ready to make oath.

This cruelty and violence to the poor and industrious Settlers, must appear infamous to all who enjoy the effectual and benign protection of the laws of England, and who are accustomed to see them regularly and impartially administered to the rich and the poor, the strong, and the weak. It is impossible to believe, as it is far from my wish to assert, that all the gentlemen who have shares in the capital of the North West Company, can be so depraved, as to approve of such detestable proceedings, but it is well known, that the constitution of that company confers an influence in its management, proportioned to the shares of the individual, and that those Agents who have most shares in the capital, possess likewise almost the undivided direction of the affairs of the Company. By sending Mr. Cameron back to the station signalized as the scene of his atrocities, his associates have given a proof that they approved of his unprincipled conduct, and that they pla-

and perfect confidence in his disposition, to act for their common interest. The invasion of the colony by an armed Banditti, the plundering of the Government house, and the subsequent reduction of it, and the habitations of the inoffensive settlers to ashes, were acts of unparalleled barbarity, which it was impossible to deny; therefore, the partners of the N.W. Company, have asserted that they were effected without any co-operation of their servants, and that they were wholly the work of the native Indians, and more especially of the half breeds. They have even attempted to find a justification, for the hostile acts of the latter, who are their kinsmen, by pretending that such a ruthless and insignificant band form an independent nation, who lay claim to the territory of the colony as their own. On this claim it may be remarked, that, by the Laws of England, illegitimate children cannot inherit even the personal property of their own parents, but here is a cluster of civil magistrates and gentlemen of the North West Company, presuming to question the King's prerogative, and, in the face of a grant, regularly made by the Crown to other persons, laying claim to all these lands, in the name of their own bastards, and those of their dependents; a mode of providing for their progeny, truly becoming the affection of patriarchs.

In order to deter people, who were desirous of emigrating, from joining the settlement, many endeavours have likewise been made, through the medium of newspapers, and by other subordinate means, besides your pamphlet, to mislead the public, and to induce them to believe, that the Indians were hostile to the settlement. I have stated before, that the attempt to ruin the Colony, was entirely the work of the partizans, of the North West Company, employed for that purpose, under the superintendence of their agent, Mr. Duncan Cameron. That statement is grounded on facts, which all their counter assertions cannot weaken, nor all their falsehoods overturn. No person who has the least regard to truth will venture to deny, that, when, in obedience to Cameron's orders, the cannon were taken by an armed force, from the store of the Colony, these fruits of lawless violence were carried, amidst the shouts and acclamations of the robbers, by Mr. Cameron, the agent of the North West Company, into their post, which they chose to call Fort Gibraltar; that on that occasion,

occasion, he shook hands with the ringleaders of the thieves, and distributed drams to the whole of the banditti; that repeated attacks were made, afterwards on the Government House of the Colony, by the same parties, sallying forth, under arms, and in military array from Cameron's post, where the clerks furnished them by his orders, and in his sight with arms and ammunition, and where they were frequently trained, and exercised for the purpose; that some families of the settlers were even dragged as prisoners out of their houses, because they refused to go to Canada, in the canoes of the North West Company; that Cameron himself threatened to put some of them in irons, for the same reason; that another of their agents threatened Mrs. M'Lean, in the presence of her husband, who had been severely wounded in one of their attacks, that she and her children should be burnt alive in their house if they did not quit the settlement; that the most active of the incendiaries, who were employed in setting fire to the houses, were the same clerks and servants of the North West Company, who had been so conspicuous in the preceding outrages, under Cameron's authority; that none, but the North West Company and you, have been found to assert, that a single native Indian was concerned in these nefarious proceedings; that when the partners of the North West Company assembled, last summer, at Fort William, on Lake Superior, they prematurely congratulated one another on the complete destruction of the Colony; that their dependents in order to obtain favor, boasted of the share they had taken, in effecting that object; that such of the traitorous settlers, as had been most active in their cause, were presented to the principal partners of the Company, as gentlemen worthy of their friendship; and that one, in particular, for the pre-eminent atrocity he had displayed, in the outrages against his countrymen, at the colony, was especially praised by Mr. Cameron, for his conduct and zeal, as a partizan, and, though nothing more than a common peasant, was distinguished by being seated at table above the Clerks, and next to the partners of the Company.

In the face of these facts, gentlemen of the North West Company, both in London and Montreal, have dared to ascribe the whole infamy of those infernal transactions to the
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native Indians; and you, who have voluntarily enlisted as their champion will no doubt be ready to assert, as an apology for your friends and employers, that they had been misinformed, but it will require something more than assertions to render it probable; that the principal agents and prime managers of the Company should possess so little information on its most important affairs. That Mr. McLeod, the magistrate whose uncommon zeal was spoken of in my last letter, approved entirely of the measures, by which the fall of the colony had been attempted, is perfectly manifest from his ineffectual and absurd interference, in the name of the North West Company, at York, a few weeks ago, to obtain the liberation of the partizan above alluded to, as having received the caresses of Mr. McLeod's associates, the partners at Fort William, for his distinguished zeal in their service. He had been arrested and brought to York, for the crimes, which obtained for him such marks of favor from the North West Company, when Mr. McLeod, arriving there, and finding him in gaol, made extraordinary efforts to procure his release though he had never seen the man in his life before, and probably never would have heard of him, had it not been for his infamous conduct. Can the North West Company expect the most credulous to believe, their assertions, that their servants had no share in effecting the destruction of the settlement, while their partners are so forward, in their name, publicly to patronize and protect criminals, with whom they have no connection, except what originated in these transactions! From Mr. McLeod's conduct on this occasion, it appears, that he had so high an opinion of himself, as to imagine, that his countenance possessed sufficient splendour to make what was black appear white; and to expect that by ostentatiously extending the patronage of the North West Company to a malefactor, he was to deter the officers of justice at York, from doing their duty. Can Mr. McLeod and his associates, have the presumption to believe, that their sanction is alone sufficient to fix the stamp of propriety on actions deserving the abhorrence of mankind? If they choose to admit robbers and incendiaries to a familiar intercourse with them, do they expect to obtain, for such detestable characters, the approbation of the world at large? Or, is it, that those gentlemen have been so long in the habit

of praising and rewarding, as laudable and meritorious exploits, whatever measures their agents and dependents might have successfully employed, to accomplish the objects, or essentially to promote the immediate interests of the Company, that they have at length really ceased to regard as criminal, any actions committed under their protection, and at their instigation, tho' for barbarity and atrocity, they may seem, to the rest of the world, almost too enormous to have been perpetrated in the present times? These Gentlemen would do well to remember the old adage, "that the world judges of a man by the company he keeps," and that those, who admit the authors of the most audacious crimes, to their friendship, are more likely to depress the estimation of their own characters, than to elevate, in the opinion of society, that of the objects of their attachment.

But to return from this digression, I have further to inform you, with respect to the settlers' accounts, that not one of those who complained to you, ever demanded his account, or the balance due him, until he had avowed the resolution of abandoning the settlement. After they had joined the North West Company's forces, and even after some of them had been actively employed on various occasions in firing into our dwellings, they had the effrontery to ask for their accounts, as if I had nothing better to employ myself about than to write accounts, when the duty, nay the necessity of bearing arms, and of keeping watch against their unprincipled attacks on our lives, had become imperious.

With respect to Matheson, it must be clear, from the nature of his contract, which you have published, that he was entitled to no wages for twelve months after his arrival at the settlement; and, as that period had not expired, when he deserted, it remains for you and him, to point out to the public, on what services he claims £21. His assertion, that I told him that the balance due to him was only £9, is equally unfounded; since, so far from that, it appears, from the books in my possession, that he had incurred a debt of £21 8s since the time of his embarkation in Orkney.

Matheson makes a complaint, that I opened his letters.
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He never received but one letter, which I certainly did open; but at his own desire, for he told me to do so, when he left the settlement in October, to go to the Hudson's Bay post, at river Qu'apell, a considerable distance from the settlement. He then expected a letter by the ships that fall, in answer to one which I had written for him to his father, the preceding year, which letter I accordingly received, opened, and afterwards enclosed and forwarded to him. But since he chuses to impute this to me as an arbitrary interference with his affairs, it is worth while to remark, that he never complained of it, either to myself or the Governor, nor did I ever know, that he disapproved of it, till I saw it noticed in your pamphlet; although he thanked me, next time I saw him, for the care I had taken of it.—Before quitting Matheson's subject, it may not be out of the way, to call to his recollection, a circumstance, which, by this time, I dare say, has escaped his retentive memory; although, in truth, it is rather surprising, he does not complain of the hurt he received in his arm, on the following occasion. One day, in my tent, he only took the liberty, without being desired so to do, of opening my writing desk, out of which he took the key of my trunk, opened it also, and overhauled every thing in it until he found at the bottom of it, a cannister of patent gunpowder, with which he overloaded, and burst in pieces, a double barrellled gun, which had cost me twelve guineas in England. But it seems that Matheson is one of those, who has only learnt to keep the credit side of his account.

At the end of M'Beath's report, the following story is subjoined in your own words; "Andrew M'Beath, particularly observes, that he could not get cloathing from the store for his infant child, although his wife and he had been obliged to leave their clothes at Churchill, under the promise of having them immediately sent after them, which was never done." To this I have simply to reply, that Andrew M'Beath had no child at all, while he belonged to the Colony. I have been informed, indeed, that his wife was delivered of a child at a post of the North West Company, on the River Winnipic, some time after they had left the settlement. This specimen of the bare faced lies which you have lent yourself to circulate, deserves no comment of mine. It is for
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the public to judge, whether you most deserve the indignation or the contempt of every honorable man, for the frequent and daring displays of the most base and malicious credulity, by which the whole tenor of your pamphlet is distinguished.

Before concluding this correspondence, however, it would be unreasonable not to acknowledge the liberality of the observations you have made, at page 22, regarding a provision for the education of youth, and for the maintenance of the Clergy. Nothing less than a high sense of your own superior judgement, and the deep interest which you naturally felt in the latter object, could have induced you to commit to print, any plan for the improvement of a colony, which in your own opinion you had demonstrated to be impracticable; but a proposal, for maintaining independently, the Clergy of each religious sect, which might be found to a parish, is peculiarly liberal on your part, since by abandoning the Kirk of Scotland, as soon as you found, that the high road to promotion was to be successfully followed, by taking orders in another, you had given a proof, that you considered these varieties of little importance.

Having now replied, pretty fully, to every objection, worthy of an argument, which you have produced against the Colony, you would probably feel hurt, if I took leave of you, without noticing the trash, which you have trumpeted forth, about wolves, and on which you lay so much stress. If the fear of wolves devouring their sheep, had deterred mankind from entering upon new and uncultivated countries, where would have been the importance of the discovery, which has conferred immortality on the name of Columbus; where would have been the vast dominions of the Spaniards; where would have been the extensive Empire of the Portuguese, in South America; where would have been the wide spreading establishments of the United States; where would have been the provinces of British North America; where, in fine, would have been your Rectorship of York, in Upper Canada? Do not deceive yourself, sir; those, who have undertaken to colonize the District of Ossiniboia, are not so sheepish, as either to be deterred from their purpose, by the howling of wolves, or driven to surrender their rights, by the violence of incendiaries.

Let me advise you, however, next time you make an attack on the reputation of a Nobleman, like the Earl of Selkirk, to aspire only at the part of an animal more ignoble than a wolf, and to content yourself with a character more emblematic of your efforts to do him an injury. It has often been said, that Scotch Curs are famous for flying at the heels of a gentleman's horse, as he rides through the streets of the villages in Scotland, and it seems, that those at York, in Upper Canada, do not fall short of their countrymen, in this laudable practice. If you dislike this illustration, you will find a very appropriate motto, for your next publication, in the well known Nursery Tale of the Little Dogie barking at the moon. I remain,

Honble. and Rev .Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ARCHIBALD McDONALD,

of Red River Settlement,

District of Ossinibora, Rupert's Land.

Montreal, 6th June, 1816.

